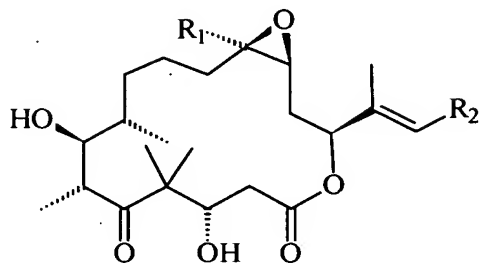


The present invention provides a synthesis for the preparation of epothilone derivatives of formula 9



wherein R1 is methyl, and R2 is an unsubstituted or substituted aryl; an unsubstituted or substituted heteroaryl; or an unsubstituted or substituted heterocyclic radical fused to a benzene nucleus; and salts thereof, and intermediates for the synthesis of a compound of formula 9